

FACILE LIAISON

EXHIBIT NO

1

DATE

3-25-11

BILL NO

HB 421

Bob Lake

From: "Dixie Stark" <abc123@montana.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:26 PM
To: <lakemill@montana.com>
Subject: HB 421 from Dixie
Dear Bob,

Thank you so much for calling. I really appreciated hearing your voice and getting to explain HB 421 to you from my perspective.

HB 421 is a language clean-up bill that aligns State Law with Federal Law. In 1998, the Workforce Investment Act passed congress and Federal funds for Adult Basic Education were moved into Title II of that act. State funds for Adult Basic Education are used to match the Federal Funds, and to provide the necessary Maintenance of Effort to keep the funds coming. The Federal funds are competitive, and the list of eligible providers was expanded in that law to include community based organizations of demonstrated effectiveness. Since 1998, the list of eligible providers in the Federal law has not been the same as the list of eligible providers under Montana Code. HB 421 fixes that.

There are 21 programs in Montana currently receiving Federal funds for Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) services (funds flow through the OPI). Five of those programs are not eligible to receive the state dollars that are allocated to match the Federal funds. They are Bitterroot, Havre, Livingston, Anaconda, and Deer Lodge. In each case, the programs must prove their effectiveness, and funding is tied heavily to student outcomes.

HB 421 is a revenue neutral bill, it will just allow all the ABLE programs to receive both the Federal dollars they must compete for, and the state dollars that are allocated to the same programs for the match. The five programs will not receive additional money, this bill will just allow a bookkeeping nightmare to be eliminated for five programs and will simplify the allocation of ABLE funds through OPI.

As chair of the Darby School Board, you know that I would not approve of anything that takes funds away from schools. Of the 21 funded programs, 16 are able to receive state funds. Of the 16, two are in tribal colleges, three are in community colleges, one is in the state prison, and 10 are in K-12 districts. Of the five who do not currently receive state funds, they are all non-profit organizations. Of the five, two are in libraries, one is in a low income clinic, and two are located in Human Resource Councils. This diversity of providers allows local communities to place these programs where they will do the most effective work, and where it makes sense for the community. In Havre, the school district ran the ABLE program until they decided there was not enough money to continue to run the program, and they asked the HRDC to take over the services.

Thank you so much for anything you can do to intervene in this matter. Please let me know if you need additional detail or any information I might have left out.

Sincerely,

Dixie Stark
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3/25/2011